



WEST VIRGINIA
STOP Violence Against Women Recovery Act
Two Year Implementation Plan
2009-2011



West Virginians Against Violence Committee

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice Services is pleased to provide justice professionals throughout the state with a two year plan to assist in combating violence against women in their communities. This plan could not have been completed without the collaboration and efforts of many dedicated agencies and individuals.

The West Virginians Against Violence Committee has demonstrated continuing commitment to stopping violence against women in West Virginia. Their leadership role in this area has contributed significantly to this two-year plan. A list of the Committee membership can be found in the appendices.

Appreciation is offered to the non-profit agencies and individuals who participated in the STOP Violence Against Women Recovery Act Focus Group meetings. The focus groups consisted of individuals from non-profit, non-governmental domestic violence programs, rape crisis centers, cultural specific programs, counseling and victim services in dating violence, stalking, and faith-based agencies, the West Virginia Foundation for Rape and Information Center and the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence. A list of focus group participants can be found in the Appendices.

Recognition should be given to the project directors and STOP-funded staff of the local sub-grantee programs for their continued cooperation, collaboration, and diligent work related to responding to violence against women crimes in West Virginia.

Introduction:

West Virginia's two-year STOP Violence Against Women (VAWA) Recovery Act Implementation plan strives to provide all professionals who make up the STOP VAWA Recovery Act Teams and the statewide projects with the tools necessary to develop and strengthen the criminal justices strategies to combat the violent crimes against women and to support, enhance and expand services available to these victims and their families.

The West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice Services (WVDCJS) works closely in order to provide services, training and to effect change in West Virginia, with the WV Foundation for Rape and Information Services (WVFRIS) whose board members include all nine Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Center's directors in the state, and the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WVCADV), whose board members include the fourteen licensed domestic violence shelter directors throughout the state. Other partners include, but are not limited to, the United States Attorney Office, Faith-based agencies, Cultural-Specific Organizations, the Regional Community Police Institute, the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, and the West Virginia Crime Victim Compensation Office.

Coordinated Efforts:

The process for developing this plan began with the first meeting of the STOP VAWA Collaboration Group. This group is comprised of individuals from the Domestic Violence Coalition, the Sexual Assault Coalition, the WV Department of Health and Human Services, the Family Protection Services Board, and the WV Division of Criminal Justice Services. The STOP VAWA Collaboration Group met on April 17, 2009 in Charleston, WV and provided the foundation through identification of who should attend the focus meeting planned for July 10, 2009 and how to revise the plan to fit the STOP VAWA Recovery Act requirements.

A second meeting was held on July 10, 2009 to develop and implement the new STOP Violence Against Women Recovery Act Implementation Plan. In addition to gathering information from the participants relevant to the Implementation Plan, focus questions were discussed at the meeting on the following issues:

- What problems are there in your service area in providing services to victims of violence against women?
- Name some best practices your agency is implementing in providing services to victims of violence against women?
- What problems are there with working with the criminal justice system for victims and/or programs?
- How can agencies collaborate better to provide comprehensive services to violence against women victims?
- How can we identify underserved populations in our communities and provide better outreach?
- How can we identify cultural specific groups/programs in our communities?

- How can we reach out to these cultural specific programs and collaborate in order to provide services, education, and learn to be more cultural competent.

The following non-profit and non-governmental agencies that participated in the focus meeting include: Family Refuge Center, Women's Resource Center, the YWCA Racial Justice Program, Branches Domestic Violence Shelter, Taskforce on Domestic Violence, "HOPE, Inc.", CONTACT of Huntington, WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence, West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services, Kanawha Institute for Social Research (KISRA), and Stop Abusive Family Environments, as well as Catholic Charities of West Virginia.

The STOP Violence Against Women Collaboration Committee will meet quarterly to discuss and review the Implementation Plan to determine the status and make revisions as needed. All STOP Violence Against Women Projects are required to develop and implement periodic evaluations of their programs in order to determine needed changes.

West Virginia Demographics:

West Virginia is located in the Appalachian Region and is 24,229.76 square miles and has an average of 75.05 persons per square mile. The state has a population of 1,818,470, of which 49% are males and 51% are female. Of this total population, 53.9% live in rural areas. There is currently a low disparity between races in West Virginia; according to the United States Census Bureau, 95% of the population reported they are White, 3.2% are Black or African American, 0.7% are Hispanic or Latino, 0.5% are Asian, and 0.2% are Native American Indian. (US Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey)

West Virginia ranks fifth highest in the nation with 17.3% of the population whose income is at or below the poverty level; of this population 25.2% are children under the age of eighteen who are living below the poverty level. West Virginia ranks highest in the nation with 10.5% of people 65 years or older who are living below the poverty level. (US Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey)

According to WorkForce West Virginia, the state's unemployment rate jumped 1.1 percent to 9.4 percent in June 2009. The number of unemployed state residents rose 9,700 to 75,900. Total unemployment was up 39,300 over the year.

West Virginia ranks 43rd in the nation with 75.2% of the population who are twenty-five years or older who have a high school diploma. The state ranks last in the nation with 14.8% of the population who are 25 years or older who have a Bachelors Degree or higher. (US Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey)

West Virginia ranks number one in the nation with 52.4% of grandparents who are responsible for their grandchildren. Of the households in West Virginia 10.7% are households who do not have a husband present and 5.7% of these households have children who are under the age of eighteen. (US Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey)

West Virginia ranks as the third highest state in the nation with the population of people which are 5-20 years of age who have a disability; and ranks number one in the nation with 9.2% of the population who are 21-64 years of age who have a disability; and ranks fourth in the nation with 48.1% of the population who are 65 years or older who have a disability. (US Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey)

Dating Violence:

West Virginia is one of the states that allow victims of dating violence to file for a protective order regardless of the nature of the relationship. Unfortunately, dating violence victims under the age of eighteen are not allowed to petition the court for a protective order without the representation by a parent or legal/appointed guardian.

Many teen victims do not report violence to their parent or guardian, so many remain in dangerous violent relationships. Additionally, a temporary protective order expires in ten days and a permanent order is only good for up to six months (NCVC, 2005).

The full extent of dating violence in West Virginia is currently unknown because the data collected is not specific enough to give accurate statistics. However, a preliminary review of crime reports from the West Virginia State Police for 2004-2006 reflects that the following crimes were reported among intimate partners (**excluding** spouses and estranged spouses) and boyfriend/girlfriend relationships for the two year period:

- 957 aggravated assaults
- 24 forcible fondling
- 67 forcible rapes
- 11 forcible sodomy cases
- 1,359 reports of intimidation
- 58 kidnapping
- 12 murders
- 25 sexual assaults with an object
- 9,566 simple assaults
- 48 statutory rapes

Domestic Violence:

Historically West Virginia has had a low crime rate, but crimes against women represent a significant number of reported crimes. Reported incidences of domestic violence have increased dramatically over the last fifteen years. The number of “reported” domestic violence incidents rose from 2,565 in 1989 to 13,558 in 2000, then back down slightly to 10,411 in 2003, and then rose to a high of 13,661 in 2005. (West Virginia State Police, 2005)

Court filings for domestic violence (12,812) were even higher than incidents reported to police in 2003 according to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Family Courts Statistics (WVSCA, 2003). The number of domestic violence victims served by the 14 licensed domestic violence shelters, who participated in the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence database program were 18,579 in 2004 (WVDCJS, 2004).

In 2005, simple assault made up the bulk of all domestic violence incidents, with 9,940 reported cases (72.8%). In addition, there were 1,441 felonious assaults (10.5%) and 33 (0.2%) domestic violence related homicides. In 2005, there were 73 reported homicides, therefore, domestic violence incidents accounted for 45.2% of all homicides (WVSP, 2005).

Geography and Appalachian Culture in West Virginia create unique difficulties in providing services to victims of domestic violence. Research is limited on the needs of rural and/or Appalachian women who experience domestic violence. Feyen suggested that rural women victims of domestic violence do face unique problems, which include: (1) law enforcement officers who are reluctant to intervene, (2) lack of support to victims from churches, (3) physical isolation, including the absences of telephones and public transportation; (4) the resistance of local communities to acknowledge and confront the problem of domestic violence and (5) the lack of funding for services in rural communities (Feyen, 1989).

Sexual Assault:

Only one-third of sexual assaults in the United States are reported to the police annually. In West Virginia, 914 incidents were reported in 1999 and 1,285 were reported in 2005. If these numbers represent only one-third of the incidents then numbers of actual incidents may have been significantly higher. Rape Crisis Centers that are members of the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services (WVFRIS) served 1,531 new victims in 2004-2005. Each victim may have suffered more than one sexual assault incident and not all victims seek assistance from WVFRIS, therefore the actual number of incidents is likely to be much greater (West Virginia Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center, 2000).

According to a 2008 Behavioral Risk Surveillance Survey (BRFSS), conducted by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, 1 in 6 women in West Virginia will be a victim of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault in her lifetime. One in 8 will be a victim of sexual assault. These statistics are higher than many other states, including Pennsylvania, Texas and New York.

Stalking:

Only recently has the justice system and the public recognized stalking as a distinct and serious crime. Stalking was first defined in West Virginia Code in 1992, W.Va.Code§61-2-9a defines stalking as “any person who knowingly, willfully, and repeatedly follows, and harasses, or knowingly, willfully, and repeatedly follows and makes a credible threat, or knowingly, willfully and repeatedly harass and makes a credible threat against a person with whom he or she has, or in the past has had or with whom he or she seeks to establish a personal or social relationship, whether or not such intention is reciprocated, or against a member of that person’s immediate family, with intent to place that person in reasonable apprehension that he or she or a member of his or her immediate family will suffer death, bodily injury, sexual assault, battery, or kidnapping....”.

The Stalking code was amended on March 8, 2008 and reenacts §61-2-9a of the Code relating to the criminal offense of stalking, including penalties. Essentially this bill completely rewrites the bulk of the Stalking statute. Changes include the following:

- Dispensing with the archaic social relationship requirement in the current statute and substituting ‘repeatedly (two or more occasions) following another’ and/or ‘repeatedly harasses or makes credible threats’ in it’s place, revising the specific intent required to that of ‘knowing or having reason to know’ that the conduct causes the stalked person to ‘reasonably fear for his/her safety’ or ‘suffer significant emotional distress’.
- Places an initial penalty of incarceration for not more than 6 months and/or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, a penalty for Stalking in violation of a Magistrate or Domestic Court Order of between 90 days and one year and/or a fine of between \$2,000 and \$5,000. The penalty for a second offense (committed within 5 years of the first conviction) graduates to a felony with a potential penalty of incarceration of one to three years indeterminate and/or a fine of between \$3,000 and \$10,000.
- Additionally there is a penalty for Stalking in Violation of an Injunction which is between one and five years and/or between \$3000 and \$10,000.

The extent of stalking incidents in West Virginia is unknown at this time. According to the Fiscal Year 2007 WV STOP VAWA Annual Performance Reports, 88 stalking victims were provided services by STOP Violence Against Women funded staff. Please note this report only records victims served by STOP-Funded staff, not the entire staff of victim service programs.

- *For more demographic information please see Appendix B.*

Indian Tribes:

West Virginia does not have any registered Tribes. According to the West Virginia Division of Culture and History in West Virginia, the contemporary Native American population can best be described as a statewide network of individuals who claim Native American ancestry, and related organizations. It is estimated there are approximately 5,000 Native Americans in West Virginia, including individuals and from at least 80 different bloodlines and tribal associations. These include descendants from regional Native Americans, including Cherokee and Shawnee Tribes, and individuals who recently relocated to West Virginia from throughout North America. Other people in West Virginia have Native American blood, but do not have a historical tribal association; others have mixed blood, that is, ancestry from different tribes as well as different races in addition to Native American. Tracing family history and conducting accurate genealogical research is especially challenging for individuals of Native American ancestral descent. (WVDCH)

Recovery Act Requirements:

The following considerations were made when making sub-grant awards in order to be in compliance with the Federal Requirements of the Recovery Act’s purpose of creating and preserving jobs:

- a. Funding new projects in counties or service areas which currently do not have funded STOP VAWA staff;
- b. Funding Projects who lost funded positions due to cuts and/or lost funding;
- c. Expansions to currently funded projects/sub-grantees for positions currently not funded under standard STOP VAWA funding; with special consideration for Culturally Specific Community-based and Faith-based Programs; and
- d. Funding Statewide Training Projects which focus on Violence Against Women issues; this may include funding for speakers, materials, lodging, space, etc.

In addition to the VAWA Recovery Act requirements, STOP Violence Against Women Recovery Act sub-grants are awarded on a competitive basis to statewide projects and county teams that include, at a minimum, law enforcement, prosecution, and victim service providers.

The WV Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) VAWA Administrator maintains a contact list and mails out Request for Proposals (RFP) and application to the contact list. DCJS staff review all applications submitted and assess the merit and overall need of the projects, eligibility requirements, as well as evaluate how the specific project satisfies the goals and objectives stated in the STOP Violence Against Women Implementation Plan. Comments and recommendations are attached and applications are forwarded to the West Virginians Against Violence Committee for consideration. Applications are evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Compliance of the proposed project with the following goals:
 - a. Increase coordination and communication among representative of the criminal justice system, victim services, and health care providers in responding to victims of violence against women.
 - b. Increase joint training of all professionals and paraprofessionals that provide services to violence against women victims.
 - c. Increase public awareness of violence against women.
 - d. Improve prosecution of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking crimes.
 - e. Increase services available to female victims of violence.
2. Need for the Project.
3. Coordination efforts.
4. Geographic area(s) to be served, including land mass, population density, and population diversity.
5. The eventual assumption of costs by the applicant agency.
6. Probability the grant will achieve its objective(s).
7. Adequate fiscal responsibility.
8. Ability to address the needs of underserved populations.
9. Certification that federal funds will not be used to supplant or replace local funds.
10. Ability to build on previous years of reducing and preventing violence against women.

Current Projects:

STOP VAWA Recovery Act funds were allocated as follows:

- At least five percent are allocated state and local courts including juvenile courts;
- At least 25 percent are allocated for law enforcement;
- At least 25 percent are allocated for prosecutors; and,
- At least 30 percent are allocated for nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services, of which at least 10 percent are distributed to culturally specific community-based organizations;

Note: West Virginia only utilizes 7% of funds for Administrative costs.

Administrative funds are utilized (but not limited) for the following purposes:

- Salary/benefits to administer the STOP VAWA-RA funds
- Travel/Training
- Rent
- Supplies

The STOP VAWA-Recovery Act funds allowed West Virginia to fund 19 Projects of which four are statewide projects which provide training across the state to victims service providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, and court personnel.

The statewide projects are as follows:

1. WV Foundation for Rape and Information Services (WVFRIS)
2. WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WVCADV)
3. WV Supreme Court of Appeals (WVSCA)
4. WV Sheriff's Association

The other STOP Team funded projects include the following:

1. McDowell County Commission
2. City of Charleston (Kanawha County STOP Team)
3. Women's Resource Center (Raleigh County)
4. Women's Resource Center (Fayette County)
5. Family Refuge Center (Greenbrier County)
6. Family Refuge Center (Monroe County)
7. Stop Abusive Family Environments, Inc. (S.A.F.E, Mercer County)
8. Wood County Commission
9. Family Crisis Center (Hampshire County STOP Team)
10. Branches DV Shelter (Cabell County STOP Team)
11. Branches DV Shelter (Putnam County STOP Team)
12. Branches DV Shelter (Mason County STOP Team)
13. YWCA Family Violence Prevention Program (Wetzel County STOP Team)
14. HOPE, Inc. (Marion County STOP Team)
15. HOPE, Inc. (Harrison County STOP Team)

These funds have allowed West Virginia to create 16 full-time/part-time advocate positions, 5 Violence Against Women dedicated prosecutor positions, and 3 dedicated law enforcement positions. There are 5 law enforcement agencies receiving funds for overtime hours to work violence against women crimes. There are also four statewide projects in

which 6 positions were created or retained in order to provide training across the state to victim's services, law enforcement, prosecution, and court personnel on violence against women issues. These positions will assist in combating the growth in Violence Against Women crimes in West Virginia. We also have five new STOP Teams and one STOP Team who did not request regular funding in the following counties:

- Harrison County
- Marion County
- Hampshire County
- Wetzel County
- Mason County
- Mercer County* (Continuing project)

Evaluation:

All STOP Violence Against Women Recovery Act sub-grantees are required to develop and implement client evaluation of their programs. These evaluations must ensure client confidentiality and may be reviewed or submitted to WV DCJS staff or the West Virginians Against Violence Committee. In addition to client evaluations, programs are encouraged to develop and implement evaluations or reviews of their peers, other service providers and criminal justice professionals such as prosecutors, judges, and other staff.

All STOP Teams are required to develop and implement protocols for each disciplines response (law enforcement, victim services, prosecution, court, etc) to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking crimes. Within this protocol there should be an explanation of how they will evaluate this process. It is also a recommendation during the grant period at their STOP Team meetings they evaluate their program, goals and objectives, and their protocol and make revisions as needed.

WV Division of Criminal Justice Services staff will monitor all STOP VAWA Recovery Act Programs by completing a desk review of reports and sub-grantee files and will on an annual basis visit the program office in the STOP Team County to monitor the program. The purpose of on-site monitoring visit is to:

1. Determine progress made toward achieving project objectives;
2. Determine compliance with terms, conditions, and purpose of grant;
3. Identify technical assistance needs; and
4. Provide guidance of future design or funding of similar projects.

An evaluation team (or member) may make approximately one visit to each grant program during the project period to aid in evaluation efforts.
Evaluation visits will:

1. Determine if each sub-grantee's objectives are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time related.
2. Help sub-grantee develop timelines for objectives, tasks, and activities.

3. Show sub-grantee how to submit the evaluation forms on a monthly basis.
4. Provide technical assistance if needed.

Goals and Objectives:

The following goals and objectives are set forth as the specific priorities our STOP Violence Against Women Recovery Act grant program(s) will address:

Goal 1: Continue to improve prosecution of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes.

Objective A: Increase the number of and enhance the knowledge of assistant prosecuting attorneys committed to the prosecution of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases.

Objective B: Support the use of local protocols in each STOP-funded county to:

- Support the on-going team approach to prosecution among prosecutors, law enforcement and victim service advocates;
- Support evidence-based/ victimless prosecutions; and
- Regularly collect data regarding the disposition of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases.

Objective C: Increase existing STOP-funded prosecution-based advocates.

Objective D: Raise awareness among VAWA-funded prosecutors about all violence against women crimes including sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence and dating violence.

Goal 2: Increase cross training of all professionals and paraprofessionals that impact victims of violence against women.

Objective A: Training emphasis should be placed on criminal and civil justice system personnel training (judicial, administrative law judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, state bar, etc.) on stalking, sexual assault, dating violence and domestic violence issues.

Objective B: Continue coordinated community response training to law enforcement officers from the entire state using training teams composed of law enforcement officers, domestic violence advocates and prosecutors.

Objective C: To provide training on sexual assault and harassment on college campuses. To develop a protocol and provide resources in order to address violence against women issues on campuses across the state.

Objective D: Coordinate with the Law Enforcement Training subcommittee of the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency and Corrections to implement

policies and procedures mandating law enforcement officials within the state to provide domestic violence workshops or seminars within a two to three year period.

Objective E: Support the efforts of the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence to train STOP Teams in the state on cultural diversity and violence against women crimes and issues.

Objective F: To develop and implement a protocol for law enforcement agencies on law enforcement officers who commit violence against women crimes and provide training to officers and other providers on a response to these crimes.

Goal 3: Develop and/or increase effective responses to the needs of victims of violent crimes against women in underserved communities or populations.

Objective A: Continue the expansion of services and resources for underserved populations, including individuals with disabilities; elderly victims; victims of racial and ethnic minorities; victims who live in rural areas that may be isolated from available resources; victims with language barriers; and victims who are Lesbian/Gay/Bi-sexual/Transgender (LGBT).

Objective B: Increase referrals from colleges and universities to domestic violence and sexual assault providers for educational and direct victim services.

Objective C: Encourage service providers and faith-based communities to coordinate and integrate their services for victims of violent crimes against women.

Objective D: To build the capacity of college campuses to provide services to victims of violence against women crimes through the compilation of sample policies, sample procedures and promising practices.

Objective E: To build the capacity of college campuses to increase the awareness of violence against women crimes through the compilation of awareness activities and programs.

Goal 4: Increase public awareness of violence against women and intervention efforts.

Objective A: Increase public awareness through community forums, educational programs, public advertisements, distribution of materials, etc.

Objective B: Develop and distribute domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking public awareness by way of public advertisements, and distribution of materials.

Objective C: Provide public awareness of violence against women issues at the college and secondary school levels: i.e. - middle and high schools.

Goal 5: Increase collaboration and communication among systems, agencies and organizations in their coordinated response to victims of violence against women.

Objective A: Continue the work of the West Virginians Against Violence Committee to oversee the Violence Against Women Act Program and the Victims of Crime Act Program.

Objective B: Expand participation and resources on a state and local level beyond the traditional criminal justice, court and victim service participants (i.e. defense attorneys, CPS, faith-based community, substance abuse, INS (Immigration and Naturalization Services), legislature, legal services, adult protective services, community corrections, educational professionals, health professionals, etc.)

Objective C: Sustain and support the central work of the existing STOP teams and projects.

Objective D: Victim service providers collaborate with community corrections programs across the state to promote victim issues, including victim safety and accountability.

Objective E: Increase access to appropriate responses of multidisciplinary services providers to victims of sexual assault through the distribution of a statewide protocol.

Goal 6: To strengthen and expand VAWA programs through identified legislation, funding sources, coordination and overall system improvement in this area.

Objective A: Engage key stakeholders (congressional, private, legislative, State Medical Examiners) in statewide planning processes to reduce and prevent violence against women. Acquire specific recommendations for stakeholders.

Objective B: Seek additional funding sources necessary to meet policy requirements, direct services, to women and children victims, and training needs to effectively prevent and respond, in a multi-disciplinary manner, to violence against women victims.

Objective C: Support legislations that will expand the time limits on criminal and civil protection orders.

Objective D: Support legislations that will strengthen WV stalking laws by decreasing the criteria necessary for a charge of stalking, clarification of that criterion, and training on implementation of the charges.

Objective E: Support legislation to allow victims of sexual assault and stranger stalking the ability to obtain civil protection orders.

Underserved populations:

Programs which serve underserved populations were included in the planning process for this implementation plan. WV DCJS VAWA Administrator maintains a contact list of identified organizations which work with or in the underserved population throughout the state. Some examples of these programs include: The YWCA Racial Justice Program, the Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action, Inc. (KISRA), and the WVCADV Advocacy of Color Network. Additionally faith-based organizations, rural programs, and people with disabilities were also included as part of this group.

The West Virginians Against Violence Committee is the Advisory Committee which is responsible for the oversight of the STOP Violence Against Women and the VOCA Assistance Grant Programs in the state. Members of this group include a faith-based representative, a sexual assault representative, a domestic violence representative, and an underserved population's representative (See Appendices for a full list of members). Felicia Bush serves as the Chairperson of the Committee and is also the underserved population's representative for the committee. All Committee members are strong leaders for social change regarding all victims of crime as well as promote an emphasis on providing services to underserved populations in the state of West Virginia.

The STOP implementation committee has identified several underserved populations in various areas of which our grantees serve. Included in these underserved populations are Lesbian/Gay/Bi-sexual/Transgender (LGBT), all ethnic minorities, elderly, mentally challenged, rural and isolated, immigrant and migrant workers, prostitutes, incarcerated women, vagrants, homeless, and those with a history of drug abuse.

Grant funds have been dispersed to various agencies to ensure that all factions of the underserved populations have an agency they could feel comfortable seeking help from. An example would be the WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence can serve the LGBT population and the YWCA Racial Justice Program can serve all minority populations.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, West Virginia has a population of 1,808,344, of which 24.4% of this population have some form of a disability; 96,7554 live in rural areas; and 15.3 of this population are elderly. Of the 55 counties in West Virginia 41 are considered rural counties. There are limited services of any kind for victims in some of these rural areas of the state. (2000 U.S. Census Bureau Survey)

All Sub-grantee applicants are required to identify the underserved population in their service area(s) and to provide statistics to substantiate the need for services; they are also required to address how they will provide outreach and services to these identified underserved populations. Some of these services are provided statewide by the statewide sub-grantees; some examples include:

- The WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides a language line for all domestic violence programs in the state.
- The WV Supreme Court of Appeals provided interpreters for victims during court proceedings, public awareness and training of court judges and staff.
- WV Foundation for Rape and Information Services will provide outreach, services and training to sexual assault victims throughout the state as well as address college campus violence against women crimes.

All programs will provide outreach and services to Underserved Populations by providing the following services:

- 24-hour hotline services providing crisis intervention services and referrals
- Accompaniment and advocacy through medical, criminal justice and social support systems, including medical facilities, police, and court proceedings.
- Crisis Intervention, short-term individual and group support services, and comprehensive service coordination and supervision to assist sexual assault victims and family or household members.
- Information and referral to assist violence against women victims and family or household members.
- Providing public awareness of services available and where victims can receive these services; these may include brochures, information tables at community events, public presentations, and TV, Radio and newspaper articles. Brochures and information will be distributed to rural areas as well as urban areas.
- Inform and assist with filing Victim Compensation Fund requests.

Cultural Specific Populations/Agencies:

West Virginia citizens are predominately Caucasian (94.9%) and of the 55 counties in West Virginia only eleven have been identified as having a rate of minorities higher than the state average. STOP VAWA and STOP VAWA Recovery Act funds currently support STOP Teams in nine counties out of the eleven counties. The West Virginians Against Violence Committee and WV DCJS staff makes every attempt to identify areas of greatest need, including geographical needs and underserved populations and encourage these organizations in these areas to apply for funds. However, many non-profit agencies, choose not to apply (particularly faith-based and cultural specific agencies) due to the restrictions on Federal grant funds.

Currently STOP VAWA Recovery Act funds are distributed to two Cultural Specific Agencies in the state; these programs are:

- The YWCA Racial Justice Program, who will be providing outreach and services to people of color in Wetzel County; and
- The Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action, Inc. (KISRA), who will provide services and outreach to people of color in Kanawha County.

Cultural Specific services are very limited in the state. The need to develop, expand, enhance and support existing cultural competent services is imperative. The northern and eastern panhandles of the state are unique because of their close proximity to other states and larger

cities. These regions, although smaller in geographical size, tend to have a greater cultural specific population. These regions as well as Charleston and Huntington also tend to have a greater cultural specific population. The staff of DCJS and the West Virginians Against Violence Committee are committed to identify cultural specific programs in these areas (as well as other parts of the state) and encourage them to apply for funds, and for existing sub-grantees to reach out to these programs, include them to be a part of their STOP Teams and Advisory Boards, and provide services to all victims of violence against women crimes and their families.

Conclusion:

West Virginia's two-year STOP Violence Against Women (VAWA) Recovery Act Implementation plan is two fold. First, it is designed to provide all professionals who make up the STOP VAWA Recovery Act Teams and the statewide projects with the tools necessary to develop and strengthen the criminal justices strategies to combat the violent crimes against women. Second, it will aid in supporting, enhancing, and expanding services available to these victims and their families.

The West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice Services (WVDCJS) will continue to work closely in order to provide services, training and to effect change in West Virginia, with the WV Foundation for Rape and Information Services (WVFRIS) and the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WVCADV). They will continue to work with other partners who include, but are not limited to, the United States District Attorney's Office, Faith-based agencies, Cultural-Specific Organizations, the Regional Community Police Institute, the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, and the West Virginia Crime Victim Compensation Office.

The STOP Violence Against Women Collaboration Committee, the West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice staff, and the West Virginians Against Violence Committee will continue to meet throughout the year to ensure that all violence against women crime victims have an agency they can go to for assistance. Through client surveys and continued collaboration, the STOP committee will be able to evaluate and continue to identify the needs of these victims.

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APPENDIX A: List of STOP VAWA Recovery Act Focus Group

List of STOP VAWA Collaboration Committee Members:

1. Marla Willcox Eddy
Family Counseling Connection REACH- Rape Crisis Center
2. Nancy Hoffman
West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services
2. Sue Julian
West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
3. Tonia Thomas
West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
4. Stacy Holley
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
5. Eileen Barker
Family Protection Service Board
6. Sarah Brown
West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice Services

List of invited group members:

1. Patricia Bailey – Women’s Resource Center
2. Eileen Barker – Family Protection Services Board
3. Harriet Sutton – Task Force on Domestic Violence, “HOPE, Inc.”
4. Rhonda Farley – Branches Domestic Violence Shelter
5. Sharon Walden – Stop Abusive Family Environments
6. Ellen Allen – Family Refuge Center
7. Marcia White – Women’s Aid in Crisis
8. Judy King Smith – Rape & Domestic Violence Information Center
9. Lois Manns – WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services
10. Kenyatta Grant – WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence – Underserved Population and Cultural Specific Coordinator
11. Sue Julian – WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence
12. Tonia Thomas – WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence
13. Nancy Hoffman – WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services
14. Michael Vincent – Catholic Charities
15. Felicia Bush – YWCA Resolve Family Abuse Program
16. Pat Scott – Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action, Inc.
17. Diana Bell – YWCA Racial Justice Program
18. Sharon Pressman – CONTACT of Huntington

List of participants:

Ms. Apple Kirschner
Family Refuge Center

Ms. Ellen Allen- Director
Family Refuge Center

Ms. Patricia Bailey – Director
Women’s Resource Center

Ms. Diana Bell – Director
YWCA Racial Justice Program

Ms. Sarah Brown – STOP Violence Against Women Administrator
WV Division of Criminal Justice Services

Ms. Marla Willcox Eddy – Counselor
Family Counseling Connection REACH Rape Crisis Program

Ms. Rhonda Farley – Director
Branches Domestic Violence Shelter

Ms. Virginia Foss –
Family Refuge Center

Ms. Tina Fowler –
Task Force on Domestic Violence “HOPE, Inc.”

Ms. Robin Gragg – STOP VAWA Recovery Act Program Specialist
WV Division of Criminal Justice Services

Ms. Kenyatta Grant – Underserved Populations Coordinator
WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Ms. Nancy Hoffman – Director
WV Foundation for Rape Information & Services

Ms. Sue Julian – Team Coordinator
WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Ms. Michele McCord –
Task Force on Domestic Violence “HOPE, Inc.”

Mr. Nicholas Leftwich – Victim of Crime Act Administrator
WV Division of Criminal Justice Services

Ms. Lois Manns – Stalking Resource Coordinator
WV Foundation for Rape Information & Services

Ms. Sharon Pressman – Director
CONTACT of Huntington

Ms. Tina Fowler –
Task Force on Domestic Violence “HOPE, Inc.”

Ms. Tonia Thomas – Team Coordinator
WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Ms. Rhonda West – Cultural Specific Advocate
YWCA Racial Justice Program

APPENDIX B: West Virginia Demographics:

**Information from the US Census Bureau – 2006 American Community Survey*

- **Total Population:** 1,818,470
- **Population by Gender:** Male (49%) Female (51%)
- **Urban vs. Rural:** 46.05% Urban and 53.95% Rural
- **Median Age:** (years) 40.7
- **Location & Area:** Appalachia Region; 24,229.76 square miles = 75.05 persons/square mile

- **Poverty Level and Rank**
 - WV ranks 5th highest in the nation with 17.3%
 - WV ranks 5th highest in the nation with 25.2% of children Under 18 below the poverty level
 - WV ranks 16th highest in the nation with 10.5% of people 65 years and older living below the poverty level
 - Unemployment rate as of June, 2009, WV has an unemployment rate of 9.47%

- **Education Level and rank:**
 - 75.2% of West Virginians 25+ years have a high school diploma. Ranking 43 in the nation.
 - 14.8% of 25+years have a Bachelors Degree + ranking last in the nation

- **Family Structure Info:**
 - Married Couple Family: 54%
 - Female households, no husband present: 10.7% (5.7% with children under 18 years)
 - WV ranks #1 in the US with 52.4% of grandparents who are responsible for their grandchildren
 - 50.3% of births are to teens (15-19 yrs)
 - 31.2% of births are to unwed mothers

- **Victims of Child Abuse and Neglect:**
 - Federal Administration for Children & Families report that from October 2004-September 2005 there were 16 deaths in WV linked to child abuse or neglect
 - The West Virginia Department of Health and Human resources reports there were 16,349 reports of child abuse or neglect in 1998, which included reports physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional maltreatment, and neglect. Of the number reported, 7,793 children were found to have been maltreated before or were at serious risk of maltreatment.

- **Domestic Violence Information:**
 - **Information from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence*
 - 12,083 reported cases of domestic violence in 2005
 - 185 of crime victims were victims of domestic violence in 2005
 - 6,533 incidents of reported domestic violence cases ended in an arrest of the offender in 2005
 - 30% of domestic violence incidents were between spouses or common law spouses and 31% of incidents were between intimate partners or dating relationships in 2005
 - 321 forcible rapes were reported in 2005
 - 34 homicides were result of domestic violence in 2005
 - 6 children were killed in WV as a result of domestic violence in 2005

**Information from the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence*

- 2003-2004 licensed domestic violence programs directly served 18,579 victims
- An average of 2 domestic violence homicides occurred in WV each month. This average has held steady since the late 70's.
- Law enforcement agencies reported a total of 10,397 complaints of domestic violence in 1998 , 4.1% increase of the 1997 figure.
- Since 1989, domestic violence complaints to law enforcement agencies have increased by 400%
- Between 1990 and 1997 the number of domestic violence petitions processed by magistrate courts tripled.

**Information from the WV Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center, May 2007, Official Report of Domestic Violence Victimization in WV: 2000-2005.*

- Only 4.8% of WV population consisted of nonwhite residents in 2005, however minorities comprised 7.5% of all domestic violence victims reported to law enforcement
- Youth under the age of 18 made up 10.9% of all domestic violence victims reported to law enforcement
- 68.3% of domestic violence victims reported in 2005 were victims of intimate partner violence
- The rate of persons victimized by an intimate partner was 4.7 or approximately 5 victims per 1,000 residents, compared to 2.2 for non-intimate partners in 2005.
- Of the 27 fatalities reported to law enforcement in 2005, a total of 15 or 55.6% were female. 92.6% of domestic violence fatalities were white and one third of the domestic violence fatalities were between the ages of 35 and 44.
- 18.5% of domestic violence fatalities were under the age of 18.

- **Sexual Assault Information:**

**Information from the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services*

- 88.5% of victims of sexual assault were related or knew the offender
- 48.7% were acquaintances
- 13.5% were children related to the offenders
- 66.5% of sex offenses were reported to have occurred at the residence or home
- Personal weapons, such as the offender's hands or fists were used during sex offenses, more than other weapons
- 65% of victims were juveniles under the age of 18. The most frequently reported were 14. Teens 16-19 are 3 ½ times more likely to be victims of rape
- The majority of the offenders were males (94%) and adults (84.2%)

- **Disability Information:**

**Information from the US Census Bureau - 2006 American Community Survey*

- WV ranks third highest state with the percentage of people 5-20 years old with a disability (9.2%)
- WV ranks number one in the nation with percentage of people 21-64 yrs. Old with a disability (21.0%)
- WV ranks 4th highest in the nation with percentage of people 65 or older with a disability (48.1%)

- **Minorities:**

**Information from the US Census Bureau - 2006 American Community Survey*

- One Race = 99.1%
- Two or more races = 0.9%
- White = 95%
- Black or African American = 3.2%
- American Indian and Alaska Native = 0.2%
- Asian = 0.5%
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander = 0.0%
- Hispanic or Latino = 0.7%
- Not Hispanic or Latino = 99.3%

- **Other Languages:**

**Information from the US Census Bureau - 2006 American Community Survey*

- Population 5 years + who speak a language other than English = 2.7%
- Population 5 years + who speak only English = 97.3%

- **Faith Community Information:**

**Information from the Association of Religion Data Archives*

(http://www.thearda.com/mapsReports/state/54_2000.asp.)

- Evangelical Protestant = 11.06% Other = 0.81%
- Unclaimed = 64.05% Orthodox = 5.82%
- Mainline Protestant = 18.0%

APPENDIX C: West Virginians Against Violence Committee Members

Felicia Bush (*Chair*)
Underserved Populations Advocate
Underserved Populations Representative

Kathleen Gross (*Vice Chair*)
West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals
Court Representative

Tonia Thomas
West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Domestic Violence Representative

Marla Willcox Eddy
West Virginia Foundation on Rape Information and Services
Sexual Assault Representative

Tracy Dorsey Chapman
U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District
Federal Victim Assistance Representative

Christina Mehler Frizzell
U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District
Federal Victim Assistance Representative

Sergeant Shallon Oglesby
West Virginia State Police
Law Enforcement Representative

Ed Kornish
McDowell County Prosecuting Attorneys Office
Prosecution Representative

Cheryl Chandler
Kanawha County Resident
Crime Victim Representative

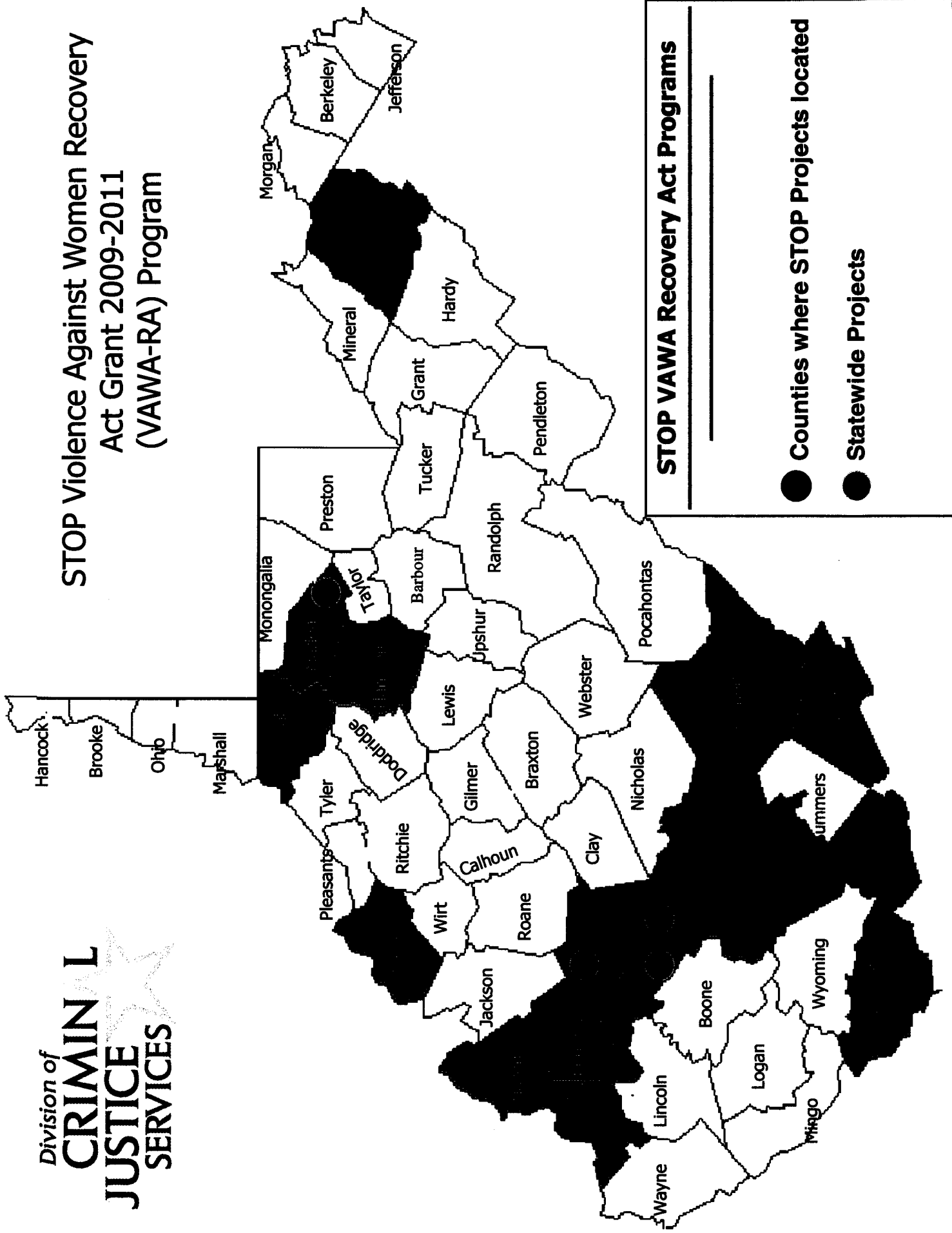
Michael Vincent
Catholic Community Services
Faith-Based Organization Representative

Genny Ferri
Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia
Child Abuse Representative

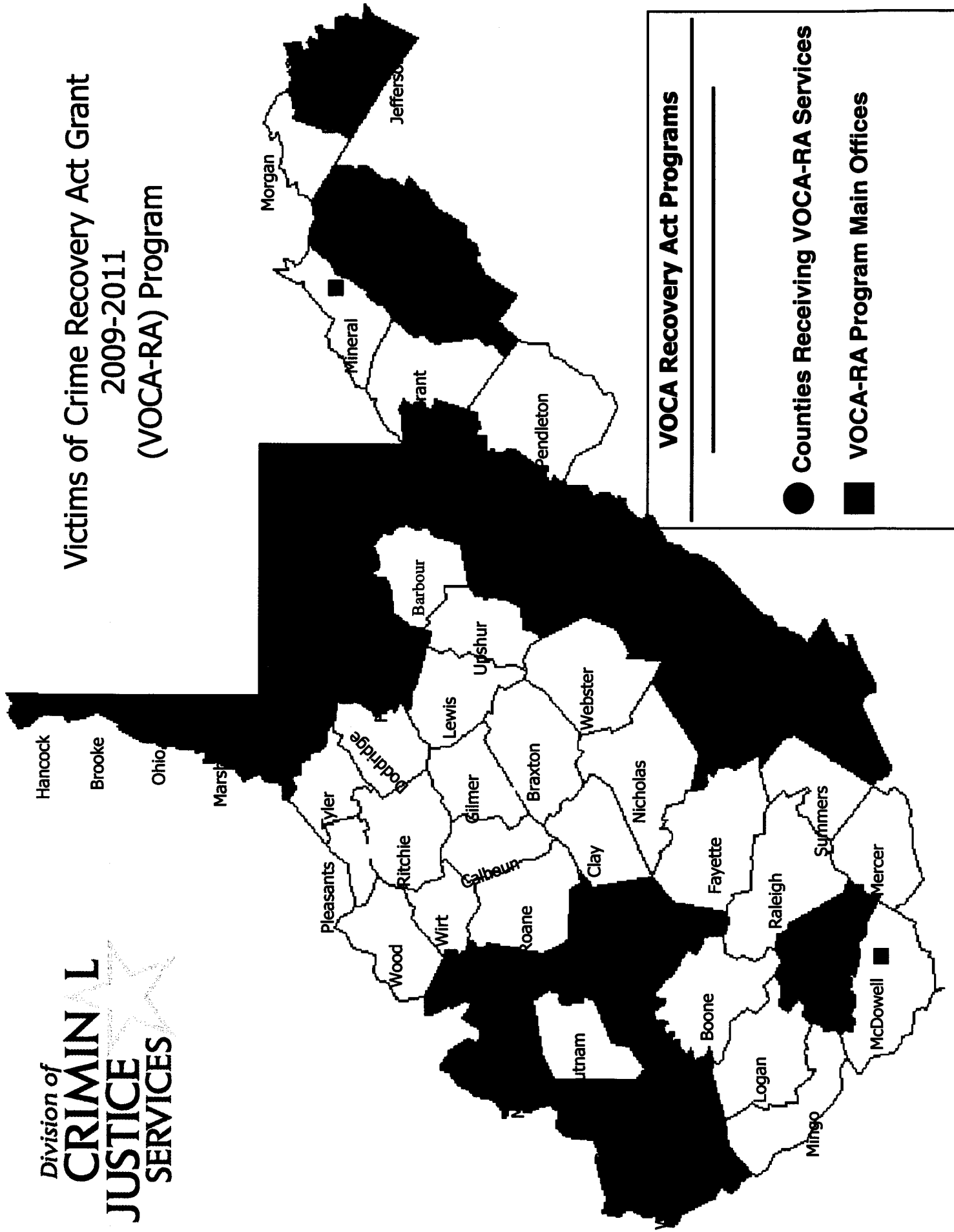


Appendix D

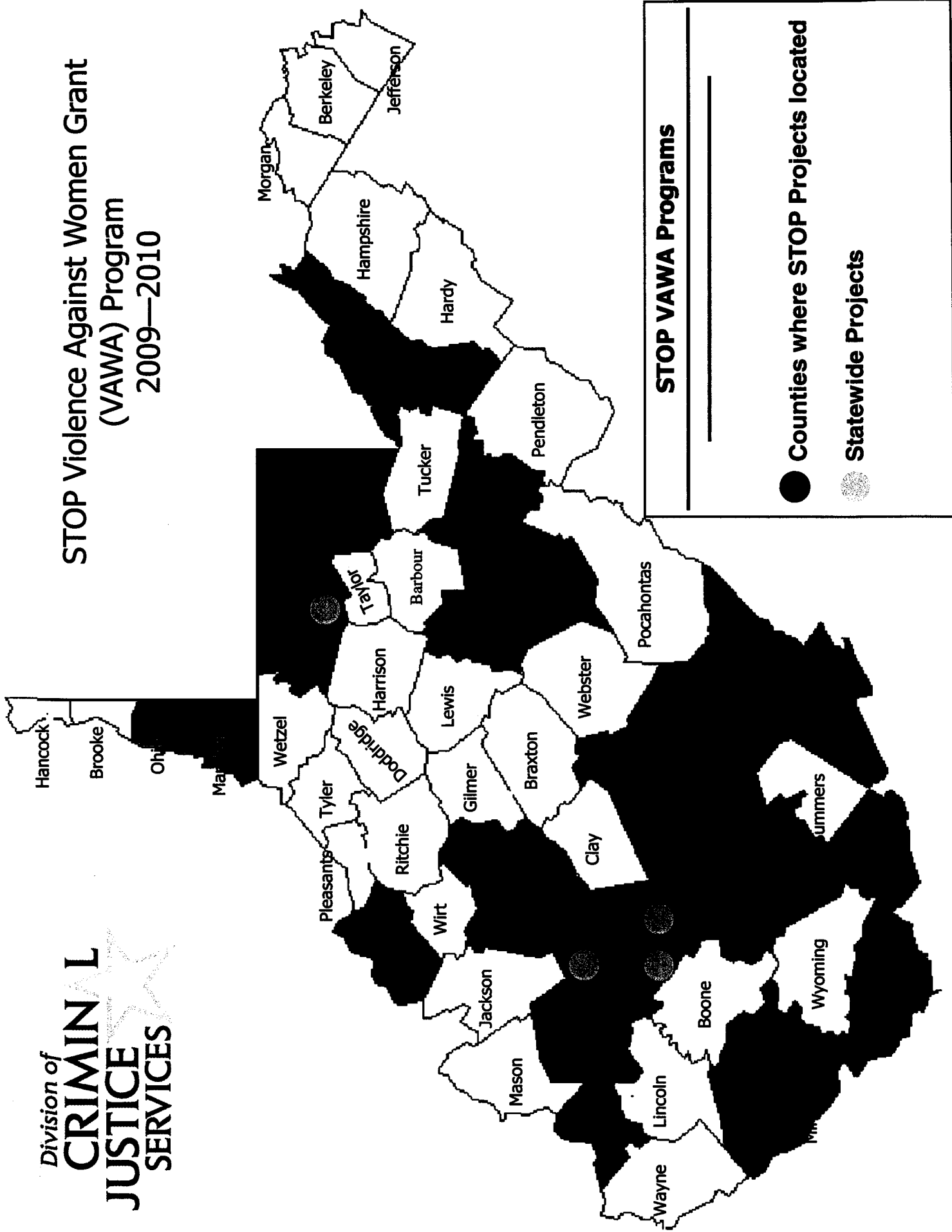
Maps



Victims of Crime Recovery Act Grant 2009-2011 (VOCA-RA) Program



STOP Violence Against Women Grant (VAWA) Program 2009—2010



West Virginia
Victim of Crime Act (VOCA)
2009—2010

